

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of administering a processor-based system, said method comprising the steps of:

implementing at least one compartment for containing at least one process executable on said processor-based system; and

providing at least one operating system command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one compartment.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one compartment defines whether said at least one process contained therein is allowed access to particular system resources.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one process is labeled to identify the compartment in which it is contained.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one compartment comprises at least one command-line utility executable to perform at least one type of compartment manipulation selected from the group consisting of:

5 adding a new compartment, renaming an existing compartment, removing an existing compartment, resizing an existing compartment, adding a process to a compartment, and removing a process from a compartment.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing step comprises:

defining said at least one compartment in at least one configuration file.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one command-line utility is executable to manipulate said at least one compartment without requiring a user to edit said at least one configuration file.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said implementing step comprises:

providing at least one rule that defines containment of said at least one compartment in at least one configuration file.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:

providing at least one command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one rule.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said at least one command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one rule comprises at least one command-line utility executable to perform at least one type of rule manipulation selected from the group consisting of:

adding a new rule for a particular compartment, removing an existing rule for a particular compartment, and listing all rules for a particular compartment.

10. A system comprising:

at least one processor;

an operating system implementing at least one compartment to which at least one process executable on said system can be associated;

at least one configuration file defining said at least one compartment; and

means for performing management of said at least one compartment without requiring that a user edit said at least one configuration file in which said at least one compartment is defined.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said means for performing management of said at least one compartment further enables management actions initiated via said means for performing management to be performed dynamically, without requiring that the system be re-booted in order for said management actions to be effective within said system.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein said performing management of said at least one compartment comprises manipulating said at least one compartment.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said manipulating said at least one compartment includes at least one type of manipulation selected from the group consisting of:

adding a new compartment, renaming an existing compartment, and removing an existing compartment, resizing an existing compartment, adding a process to a compartment, and removing a process from a compartment.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein said means for performing management of said at least one compartment further enables manipulating of said at least one compartment to be performed dynamically, without requiring that the system be re-booted in order for compartment manipulation to be effective within said system.

15. The system of claim 10 wherein said performing management of said at least one compartment comprises switching from a first compartment to a second compartment.

16. The system of claim 10 further comprising:

at least one configuration file including at least one rule defining containment of said at least one compartment.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said performing management of said at least one compartment comprises manipulating said at least one rule.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said manipulating said at least one rule comprises at least one type of manipulation selected from the group consisting of:

adding a new rule for a particular compartment, removing an existing rule for a particular compartment, and listing all rules for a particular compartment.

19. The system of claim 10 wherein said means for performing management comprises at least one operating system command-line utility executable to manage said at least one compartment.

20. A computer-readable medium including instructions executable by a processor, said computer-readable medium comprising:

library of software functions for managing at least one compartment implemented by an operating system, wherein at least one process can be associated with said at least one compartment and said at least one compartment defines accessibility of resources for said at least one process associated therewith; and

said library of software functions includes at least one command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one compartment.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein at least one command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one compartment includes at least one type of manipulation selected from the group consisting of:

adding a new compartment, renaming an existing compartment, and removing an existing compartment, resizing an existing compartment, adding a process to a compartment, and removing a process from a compartment.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein at least one configuration file is implemented on a system to define said at least one compartment.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein said at least one command-line utility is executable to manipulate said at least one compartment without requiring that a user edit said at least one configuration file.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein at least one rule is implemented to define accessibility of resources allowed for said at least one compartment, and wherein said library of software functions further includes at least one command-line utility executable to manipulate said at least one rule.

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